Remarks/Arguments

ELECTION OF SPECIES

The pending Office Action requires restriction to Group I drawn to a gripper device classified in class 294, subclass 87.1, or Group II drawn to a method for loading from one location to another location classified in class 414, subclass 800.

The applicant elects to prosecute Group I. The election is being made without traverse as to the distinction between device claims in Group 1 and method claims in Group 2. To clarify and simplify matters, the applicant canceled claim 18.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 14, and 19-29 are currently pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all currently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Rutan & Tucker, LLP

Dated: April 20, 2004

By: Robert D. Fish

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